

Please vote no against any action that facilitates further media consolidation. Arguments that the present rules are outdated and that therefore they need to be altered misses the point completely: the FCC, as a government agency, is charged with serving the public interest, not the interests of media conglomerates. And in this instance, the public interest is not served -- and is in fact egregiously harmed -- by the proposed rule changes. The FCC is obviously aware that diverse sources, access, and means of disseminating information and news is critical to a free and open democratic society. I am disturbed by the fact that the FCC, in this instance, is proposing an action so contrary to our public interest, and so contrary to the basic principles of our nation -- principles too often trampled in the rush for the monetary benefit of a few with access and power to government decisionmakers. Furthermore, arguments that the rules need to be changed to make use of "free market dynamics" presumes that the markets are in fact free. In this context, the markets are not in fact "free" and are in fact stifled by the power of a few media outlets. The FCC has failed to make the case that authorizing further media consolidation is necessary, important, or remotely consistent with our collective public interest. Again, vote against any action that facilitates further media consolidation.